AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, comprising the steps of:

determining a threshold number of uses;

checking usage conditions of said plurality of functions to determine which functions have been used less than a predetermined said threshold number of times uses; and

making said computer carry out notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function from among the functions which have been determined to have been used less than a predetermined said threshold number of times uses,

wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, comprising the steps of:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of functions;

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a checking result to a service provider providing said application program to a user; and

receiving content, from said service provider, relating to a function which is used less than a predetermined threshold number of times uses,

wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

4. (Previously presented) The service management method as set forth in claim 3,:

wherein said content is content of notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use the function which is used less than a predetermined number of times, corresponding to the usage conditions of the functions transmitted to said service provider,; and

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wherein the method further comprises making said computer carry out the notification and promotion processing based on the content.

5. (Currently amended) A service management method managing a software package made up of a combination of a plurality of functions including a function for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, by a computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving usage conditions of the functions of said software package from a device in which said software package is installed via the network; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a message for promoting use of a function which is indicated in the usage conditions as a function used less than a ~~predetermined~~ threshold number of ~~times~~ uses, to said device,

wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

6. (Previously presented) A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions so as to distinguish said detected function from an undetected function,

wherein, the functions are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function in the first level being associated with at least one function in the second level, and

the at least one function in the first level is identified as used only if all functions in the second level that are associated with the at least one function are identified as used.

7. (Original) The service management method as set forth in claim 6, further making said computer carry out the step of:

displaying data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file, on an activation screen of said application

program.

8. (Original) The service management method as set forth in claim 6, further making said computer carry out the step of:

transmitting data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file.

9. (Previously presented) A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

writing number of detection of said detected function in a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions, wherein

the functions are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function in the first level being associated with at least one function in the second level, and

the at least one function in the first level is identified as used only if each function in the second level that is associated with the at least one function is detected a predetermined number of times.

10. (Original) The service management method as set forth in claim 9, further making said computer carry out the step of:

displaying data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file, on an activation screen of said application program.

11. (Original) The service management method as set forth in claim 9, further making said computer carry out the step of:

transmitting data which includes at least either of data on a used function and data on an unused function described in said management file.

12. (Currently amended) A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for:

determining a threshold number of uses;

checking usage conditions of said plurality of functions to determine which functions have been used less than a predetermined said threshold number of times uses; and

making said computer carry out notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function from among the functions which have been determined to have been used less than a predetermined said threshold number of timesuses,

wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

13. (Currently amended) A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of functions;

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a checking result to a service provider providing said application program to a user; and

receiving content, from said service provider, relating to a function which is used less than a predetermined threshold number of times uses

wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

14. (Original) A service management program for managing a software package made up of a combination of a plurality of functions including a function for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, by a computer, provided for:

receiving usage conditions of the functions of said software package from a device in which said software package is installed via the network; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a message for promoting use of a function which is indicated in the usage conditions as a function used less than a predetermined

number of times, to said device.

15. (Previously presented) A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions so as to distinguish said detected function from an undetected function,

wherein, the functions are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function in the first level being associated with at least one function in the second level, and

the at least one function in the first level is identified as used only if all functions in the second level that are associated with the at least one function are identified as used.

16. (Previously presented) A service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

writing number of detection of said detected function in a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions, wherein

the functions are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function in the first level being associated with at least one function in the second level, and

the at least one function in the first level is identified as used only if each function in the second level that is associated with the at least one function is detected a predetermined number of times.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for:

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determining a threshold number of uses;

checking usage conditions of said plurality of functions to determine which functions have been used less than a predetermined said threshold number of times uses; and

_____ making said computer carry out notification and promotion processing to promote a user to use a function from among the functions which have been determined to have been used less than a predetermined threshold number of timesuses,

wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

18. (Currently amended) A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for:

checking usage conditions of said plurality of functions;

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a checking result to a service provider providing said application program to a user; and

receiving content, from said service provider, relating to a function which is used less than a predetermined threshold number of timesuses.

_____ wherein said threshold number of uses is determined based on usage conditions of at least one of said plurality of functions.

19. (Original) A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing a software package made up of a combination of a plurality of functions including a function for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, by a computer, recording said service management program provided for:

receiving usage conditions of the functions of said software package from a device in which said software package is installed via the network; and

making said computer carry out processing to transmit a message for promoting use of a function which is indicated in the usage conditions as a function used less than a predetermined number of times, to said device.

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20. (Previously presented) A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions so as to distinguish said detected function from an undetected function,

wherein, the functions are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function in the first level being associated with at least one function in the second level, and

the at least one function in the first level is identified as used only if all functions in the second level that are associated with the at least one function are identified as used.

21. (Previously presented) A computer-readable information recording medium recording a service management program for managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, recording said service management program provided for making said computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function is selected or performed; and

writing number of detection of said detected function in a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the functions, wherein

the functions are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function in the first level being associated with at least one function in the second level, and

the at least one function in the first level is identified as used only if each function in the second level that is associated with the at least one function is detected a predetermined number of times.

22. (New) the service management method of claim 1, wherein;

said threshold number of uses is based on the number of uses of a function from among the plurality of functions that is indicated by the usage conditions as having the largest number of

uses.

23. (New) The service management method of claim 22, wherein:

said threshold number of uses is equal to a predetermined constant multiplied by the number of uses of the function indicated by the usage conditions as having the largest number of uses.

24. (New) The service management method of claim 23, wherein:

the predetermined constant is less than 1.

25. (New) A service management method managing an application program made up of a combination of a plurality of functions by a computer, the functions being grouped into a plurality of function groups such that each function group either (a) contains at least one function group or (b) corresponds to a function, and including a function group for carrying out processing to transmit/receive information via a network, the service management method making the computer carry out the steps of:

detecting that a specific function group is selected or performed; and

updating a management file which records usage conditions of said plurality of the function groups so as to distinguish said detected function group from an undetected function group,

wherein, the function groups are grouped into at least a first level and a second level, at least one function group in the first level being associated with at least one function group in the second level, and

the at least one function group in the first level is identified as used only if all function groups in the second level that are associated with the at least one function group are identified as used.

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